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FIELD INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY: Italy/Yugoslavia

REPORT NO. OIR-17831

SUBJECT: Source Contacts with Berislav ZULJ

DATE OF INFO: 4 and 24 Oct., 2 Nov. 55

DATE ACQUIRED: Italy, Rome

DATE ACQUIRED: 11 Nov. 1955

DATE OF REPORT: 23 Nov. 1955

Reference: OIR-17569

SOURCE, SOURCE EVALUATION, APPRAISAL OF CONTENT: (B-3)

SUBJ: 0033 X 15 IN CONTACT
WITH ITALIS

Report of 4 October 1955:

1. The meeting which Berislav ZULJ had fixed with Source for noon on 21 September 1955 was postponed, for personal reasons, to 1230 hours on 30 September. ZULJ initiated the conversation by lauding the artistic and cultural beauties of Italy and the courtesy of the Italian people and emphasized the favorable development of Italo-Yugoslav relations, the outcome of which he had influenced to a great degree.
2. To Source's query regarding the present situation in Yugoslavia and the rapprochement of that country to the Eastern bloc, ZULJ stated that Yugoslavia tended gradually to "democratize" itself in internal policy while it would maintain its present position on foreign policy, i.e., "active neutrality". The Tito regime had no intention of returning to its past position of dependence on Moscow and even Bulgaria's government, analyzing the errors committed at the time, was not insisting on a change of foreign policy by Belgrade.
3. To contribute to the detente in the world, the Kremlin would subsequently dissolve the Cominform and, in spite of the fact that various obstacles were to be eliminated between the viewpoints of Moscow and Washington, it could be said that a positive result had been achieved when the two governments, breaking through the diffidence existing between them, had manifested their good intentions to discuss frankly all the problems which divided East and West. The foreign policy observed by Tito in recent years contributed notably to such detente.
4. The Yugoslav economic situation was still difficult but it could improve when Germany, Hungary and some countries of the Middle East paid their debts to Yugoslavia (for war damages, payment of goods already supplied, etc.) which amounted to about a hundred million dollars. Yugoslav products were already appreciated particularly in Moslem countries which no longer desired to depend economically on the great Western powers, preferring relations with countries like Yugoslavia which did not endanger their independence.
5. The Yugoslav Government has succeeded in affirming itself also in the Middle East and in Asia. Construction work in the Syrian port of Latakia, entrusted

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to the Tugolava, was about to be completed, while Pakistan has turned over to Tugolava agencies the construction of a large hydroelectric plant. In addition, a Bruman mission was presently in Tugolava to work out an agreement regarding important work to be carried out in Burma.

6. The political-economic relations with Satellite countries would be fully resumed in spite of the fact that Hungary and Albania still presented some difficulty. This was because such decision did not depend entirely upon these countries which had already received orders from Moscow to arrange for complete rapprochement. It could not be said that such problems could be easily resolved because RAKOSI and Mehmed SHENU (who is equal to Enver HOXHA) have to make public denials to their peoples for all that they said or did from 1948, against Tito and Tugolava. For these reasons Tito was not soliciting their self-criticism.
7. After having pointed out the ideological differences which existed between the Tugolav regime and those of the Eastern bloc, ZULJ stated that he was well aware of Source's political orientation and for this reason had no intention of goading him into changing his ideas. Still, he desired to maintain good relations with him in order to exchange viewpoints.
8. ZULJ then asked Source what Dobroslav JEVANJEVIC was doing, and upon learning that he was ill, replied that probably JEVANJEVIC suffered from "demoralization" since he could no longer publish his periodical, Syngas Moving (the Serbian Journal) as he was prohibited from doing so by the Italian Minister of Interior. In this regard, ZULJ pointed out that he had gone personally to the Foreign Ministry to protest against the vulgar statements and invectives published in the newspaper against Tito.
9. ZULJ also asked Source to get him exact data on the activity of the Macedonian organization, "V.M.R.O."; on the present residence of its chief, Ivan Vaneva MIHAJLOVIC and on the collaboration which the latter gives the Ustachi. In this regard he reported that it was known to the Tugolav service that the Macedonian leader, Asen AVRAMOV, lives in Italy and is on close terms with Ivica CRILIC, representative of MIHAJLOVIC in Italy, and with Marko KAROS, collaborator of the priest, (Prof.) Krunoslav KRIVANOVIC.
10. On leaving, ZULJ told Source that he would call him soon to continue their conversation.
11. Control Comment: In spite of the fact that on many occasions Source had clearly stated that he did not desire to meet with members of the Tugolav Embassy, ZULJ persisted, showing particular interest in Source. It is probable that he tends, more than anything, to channel his views on specific subjects to the Ministry of Interior through Source (whom he knows is in contact with that Ministry). However, this does not detract from the fact that ZULJ secretly hopes to win over Source with time in order to penetrate the Ministry of Interior. For this reason, and because he is trusted, Source was requested not to break off this contact in order that ZULJ's true intentions could be learned.

Report of 24 October 1955:

12. On the basis of a telephone request from Berislav ZULJ, the latter met with Source at noon on 19 October 1955 in a Via Sistina bar. In discussing the

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international situation, ZULJ dwelt on the recent opening of the General Session of the United Nations and the candidacy of Yugoslavia as a member of the Security Council, which constituted a further proof of the great prestige and trust which Yugoslavia enjoyed in the world today. ZULJ then praised the realistic policy of England, which supported Yugoslavia's candidacy, comparing it to that of the United States in regards to the Philippines (Yugoslavia got 28 votes and the Philippines 29 but since neither nation obtained a two-thirds vote the decisive vote was postponed).

13. ZULJ mentioned existing good Italo-Yugoslav relations, observing that Italy has more interests than has Yugoslavia in cultivating such relations. (Control Comment: At each meeting ZULJ attempts to impress Source by boasting of the stability of the Tito regime for the purpose of eventually recruiting Source to his Service. However, Source made it clear to him, even during the last meeting, that only truly reciprocal collaboration could be developed between them.
14. Speaking of the Yugoslav emigres and the rumors that JEVNEVIC spreads from time to time (even through his newspaper) about intentions of Titoist agents to "liquidate" him, ZULJ pointed out that such action would not be in the interests of the Yugoslav Communist regime because JEVNEVIC's policy of disunity is a help rather than a hindrance to the regime. ZULJ added that the Belgrade Government considered more dangerous the policy of Miko KRANIC, an intelligent and active person who, through the newspaper Hrvatska Zora, invites all emigres to unite against the present Yugoslav regime.
15. ZULJ then alluded to the activity in Italy of the group of (General) Miodrag JANJANOVIC, naming as his followers the well known Vjekoslav PUTAR, Ljubislav MIKIC and Ljubomir SPASEVIC, but Source observed that he was not aware that this group engaged in any particular political activity in Italy.
16. ZULJ reported that the former president of the Yugoslav "Presidium", Ivan KIRAN, now deputy to the Yugoslav central Parliament, has been in Rome for some days on a tourist visit and that he had met with him a number of times.
17. In connection with the news recently published in Italian newspapers about the deterioration of relations between Tirana and Belgrade, ZULJ stated that in a way these rumors were exaggerated and in part fantasy as they were based on the desire of Italy to resume its influence in Albania, eliminating that of other countries.
18. For this same reason, prior to this time, information was circulated regarding the presumed division of Albania between Yugoslavia and Greece. ZULJ pointed out that Yugoslavia was against any dismemberment of Albania and that the Belgrade Government had no intention of recommending an eventual incorporation of Albania into the Yugoslav Federation or into a Balkan Federation.
19. Continuing on the same subject, ZULJ stated that it was necessary to wait for each problem to develop naturally. Both Albanian and Hungarian leaders needed time to correct their position toward the Tito regime so as not to compromise themselves before their respective peoples. The Soviets had already given orders to the Tirana and Budapest Governments in this regard. In any case, the Soviets do not desire to sacrifice the men who today are governing the two countries.
20. With regard to the activity and collaboration of the Macedonians and Ustachi,

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ZULJ asked Source to prepare a report, but the latter declined the assignment, stating that he did not know any details. Finally, ZULJ told Source that he desired to meet him again and, therefore, gave him his new home telephone number: 851102 (Control Comment: Which is registered in the name of Marcella ALFIERI whose furnished apartment at 2-A Via Guattani, ZULJ rented as of 18 October 1955).

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21. Through confidential informants, it was ascertained that Ivan RIBAR (see above), about 70 years old, native of Vinkovci (Srem), former President of the Yugoslav Peoples' Federated Republic, arrived in Rome between 15 and 16 October 1955 as a tourist, together with his wife Gata, native of Split, about 45 years of age, a painter. They were both guests of the Yugoslav Ambassador, Danilo GERNEJ, and were frequently seen in his car bearing CD tags 15111.
20. On 20 October 1955, the RIBAR couple went to the inauguration at the Palazzo Venezia of the "Exhibit of Yugoslav Medieval Frescoes" and on 23 October left Rome, probably for Yugoslavia.
21. According to information furnished by Jusa LOTIC, resident in West Germany and presently chief of the "ZBOR" nationalist movement, the RIBAR's, prior to arriving in Italy, spent some days in Germany, also for asserted touristic reasons.
22. It was learned that Ivan RIBAR, prior to the last war, was a rather unknown lawyer in Vinkovci. At first, he joined the Croatian Peasants' Party, then directed by Stjepan RADIC, but, as he had not been able to assume directive posts, went over to the Independent Democratic Party of PRIBICEVIC. During the last war he joined the TITO partisans where he met his present wife who was then married to the dramatic actor DUSEIN. The latter died in 1946 as a result of tortures to which he was subjected by the Ustachi because he was a pro-Communist; a year later, the widow married RIBAR.
23. The friendship between GERNEJ and RIBAR, both lawyers, goes back to the partisan period in Yugoslavia, during which time they were in communication through a courier service between Slovenia (where GERNEJ operated) and Srem (where RIBAR was located). In 1945 they were given high honors by Tito for partisan valor and positions of privilege in the political life of the new Yugoslav Communist Government.

Alan Fair

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